

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides methods for promoting the growth of new lymph vessels (lymphangiogenesis). Generally, such methods include administering at least one vascular endothelial factor (VEGF) such as VEGF-2. In one embodiment, therapeutic methods for treating lymphedema and related disorders in a human patient are disclosed. The VEGF can be provided by any suitable means including direct injection of a nucleic acid encoding same or an active fragment thereof. Also provided are pharmaceutical products for promoting lymphangiogenesis as well as a test system for screening compounds capable of inducing new lymph vessel growth.

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